



**U.S. Department of Justice**

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**EVENT: Sentencing**

**Defendant: Joseph and Evelyn Djoumessi**

**HUSBAND AND WIFE SENTENCED  
TO 17 YEARS AND 5 YEARS ON HUMAN TRAFFICKING CHARGES**

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Two Cameroonian nationals, permanent resident aliens, were sentenced late yesterday as a result of their convictions for conspiracy to commit involuntary servitude with regard to their forcing a young girl from Cameroon to perform child care and domestic chores through the use of threats and beatings, United States Attorney Stephen J. Murphy announced today. Mr. Murphy was joined in the announcement by Special Agent in Charge Brian Moskowitz, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement Office in Detroit.

United States District Judge Arthur Tarnow sentenced Joseph to 204 months of imprisonment and his wife Evelyn Djoumessi to 60 months of imprisonment for their roles in the offense of conspiracy to commit involuntary servitude. The judge also ordered the defendants to pay restitution to the victim in the amount of \$100,000.00. Additionally, Joseph Djoumessi, who was also convicted of Involuntary Servitude and Harboring an Illegal Alien for Financial Gain, received a special assessment of \$300.00 and Evelyn Djoumessi received a special assessment of special assessment of \$100.00. Both Joseph and Evelyn Djoumessi

received supervised release conditions to be in effect upon their release from imprisonment.

United States Attorney Stephen J. Murphy said, "Today's sentence gives fair warning to all human traffickers and any others who would ever seek to force an innocent teenager to become the equivalent of a personal slave: you will pay a steep price for your crime. This Office will continue to pursue and aggressively prosecute such heinous offenses."

Special Agent in Charge Brian Moskowitz, Immigration and Customs Enforcement Office of Investigations said, "It is a basic and fundamental human right to be free, and no child should ever be forced to live in a world of fear and involuntary servitude. Today's sentences are a testament to our solemn commitment to protect those who cannot protect themselves. While we cannot restore someone's childhood, we can bring their abusers to justice."

In March 2006, a jury convicted defendant Evelyn Djoumessi and a judge convicted defendant Joseph Djoumessi, after the government presented evidence that between October 1996 and February, 2000, the defendants forced the Cameroonian girl, whom they had brought to this country illegally, to work against her will as a domestic servant in the Djoumessi home. Defendant Evelyn Djoumessi forced the girl to take care of the defendant's children and perform household chores without pay, and beat her with a belt, a spoon, and a shoe in order to force her to comply with these demands. The judge found that Defendant Joseph Djoumessi sexually abused the victim, in addition to forcing her to work as a domestic servant.

The case was investigated by agents of the United States Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement and was prosecuted by attorneys from the Civil Rights Division and the United States Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of Michigan.